

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 04989 061230Z
ACTION EUR-12

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UNCLAS BELGRADE 4989

USICA
FOR PGM/RC, VOA/PCX

E. O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION: BELGRADE COMMENTARY ON U.S. MIDEAST
MOVES

1. BELGRADE DAILY "POLITIKA" JULY 6 CONTINUES REACTION TO
U.S. MIDEAST MOVES IN DISPATCH FROM ITS NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT:

2. "JERUSALEM'S ASSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LONDON TRIPARTITE
MINISTERIAL TALKS IS THE FIRST SUCCESS OF CARTER'S ATTENTIVENESS
(TOWARD THE MIDEAST)...BUT A GREAT POWER REMAINS A GREAT POWER,
AND EVEN THESE GESTURES, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, WIND UP CONTAINING
ELEMENTS WITH NO APPARENT CONNECTION TO THE MATTER AT HAND...

3. "NOBODY WAS ASTOUNDED BY THE 'BIZARRE' SIDE OF THE (ISRAEL-
TAIWAN) DECISION...REPRESENTED BY THE FACT THAT THE ISRAELI
PLANE SHIPMENT TO TAIWAN AFFECTS SUBSTANTIALLY LESS THE
DELICATE ISSUE OF (U.S.) RELATIONS WITH PEKING THAN WOULD THE
EVENTUAL SHIPMENT OF AMERICAN PLANES...

4 "IT IS BELIEVED HERE THAT BOTH CHINA AND THE U.S. ARE AFTER
A 'MODUS VIVENDI' WITH RESPECT TO TAIWAN, AND HERE ISRAEL
OCCUPIES AN EXPEDIENT POSITION...

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5. "MONDALE DID NOT RETURN EMPTY-HANDED, BUT ONE DOES GET THE
IMPRESSION THAT A WELL-KNOWN PATTERN WAS REPEATED: CONCESSIONS
WERE MADE, BUT AGAIN THIS TIME SADAT'S ARE GREATER THAN BEGIN'S.
THUS THE ROLE OF 'SAVIOR' AGAIN BEFALLS SADAT THROUGH HIS OWN
INITIATIVE.

6. "IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT ALL THIS COULD CHANGE, BUT

SHOULD NEW DIFFICULTIES ARISE, THE CATER ADMINISTRATION COULD
FACE UNPLEASANT MOMENTS, BECAUSE THE DRAMA WOULD COINCIDE WITH
THE FALL ELECTIONS AND THE TEMPTATIONS THEY OFFER."
CATHERMAN

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NNN

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